

By the Committee on Education/K-12 and Representatives
Stafford, Melvin, Wiles, Albright, Andrews, Bloom, Dennis,
Greenstein, Futch, Minton, Wise, Cosgrove and Brown

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public school curricula;
3 amending s. 233.061, F.S.; including a secular
4 character-development program in required
5 public school instruction in the elementary
6 schools; amending s. 233.0612, F.S.; including
7 ethics in authorized public school instruction;
8 deleting a provision encouraging school boards
9 to institute such programs; providing an
10 effective date.

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12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14 Section 1. Paragraph (q) is added to subsection (2) of
15 section 233.061, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, to read:

16 233.061 Required instruction.--

17 (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public
18 schools, subject to the rules and regulations of the
19 commissioner, the state board, and the school board, shall
20 teach efficiently and faithfully, using the books and
21 materials required, following the prescribed courses of study,
22 and employing approved methods of instruction, the following:

23 (q) A character-development program similar to
24 Character Counts in the elementary schools. Such a program
25 must be secular in nature and must stress such character
26 qualities as attentiveness, patience, and initiative.

27 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 233.0612, Florida
28 Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended to read:

29 233.0612 Authorized instruction.--Each school district
30 may provide students with programs and instruction at the
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1 appropriate grade levels in areas including, but not limited
2 to, the following:

3 (1) Character development, ethics, and law education.
4 ~~Each school board shall be encouraged to install in the~~
5 ~~elementary schools of the district a program in character~~
6 ~~development which is the same as or similar to the Character~~
7 ~~Counts or Character First! Education Series. The programs must~~
8 ~~be secular in nature and stress such character qualities as~~
9 ~~attentiveness, patience, and initiative.~~

10 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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